

Name: _____ Date: _____

ENG 2D3 LITERATURE CIRCLES – *THE GREAT GATSBY*

Select one chapter to discuss with your partner. Make some notes on your discussions and be prepared to share them with the larger group.

CHAPTER I

1. What traits of Nick's personality establish him as a reliable narrator?
2. In what way is Nick's evaluation of Gatsby ambiguous?
3. What actions and utterances by Tom and Daisy reveal their personalities?
4. How does the ending of this chapter contribute to the mystery surrounding Gatsby?

CHAPTER II

1. This chapter introduces the Wilsons. How does the setting of the valley of ashes add to your understanding of them?
2. What is your initial response to the eyes of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg?
3. What actions and utterances by Myrtle reveal her personality?
4. What is your response to Tom by the end of this chapter?
5. What insights into the lives of the "very rich" has Nick gained by the end of this chapter?

CHAPTER III

1. What is your response to the description of the parties at Gatsby's? What words, images, or details contribute to this response?
2. In this chapter, how does the author build up the mystery surrounding Gatsby?

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3. What is the effect of making Gatsby's initial entry into the novel so nonchalant?
4. At the conclusion of this chapter, Nick digresses to describe his daily activities in New York City, his infatuation with Jordan Baker, her dishonesty and careless driving habits, and his attitude toward these faults. Is this digression essential to our understanding of the plot, or does it bring a quality of disunity to the novel?

CHAPTER IV

1. What does Nick learn from Gatsby as they drive to lunch together? Does his attitude remain ambivalent? How can you tell?
2. After the meeting with Meyer Wolfsheim, what is your response to Gatsby?
3. What information does Nick obtain from Jordan Baker concerning Gatsby's past?
4. What does Nick agree to do? Why do you think he agrees to the request from Gatsby?

CHAPTER V

1. How would you describe Gatsby's behaviour as he awaits Daisy's arrival?
2. Why does Gatsby want to take Daisy on a tour of his mansion?
3. Is there any significance to Daisy's reaction to the shirts? Explain.
4. This chapter may be seen as a crucial turning point in the novel. Explain.
5. From what you know of Gatsby and Daisy, predict the outcome of their affair. Why did you predict as you did?